

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A hot-air heater comprising:  
  
an air-blowing passage leading from an inlet to an outlet;  
  
an air-blowing fan and an electric heater ~~[which are]~~ provide along said air-blowing passage[,] so that when said air-blowing fan is operated to suck air in said air-blowing passage through said inlet, said air is heated by said electric heater to provide hot air[,] which is blasted out of said outlet to a room[,] wherein:  
  
an expansion having an entrance opening and an exit opening is formed along said air-blowing passage as a storage portion to contain said electric heater; said electric heaters are arranged in a plurality of stages in such a manner as to face said entrance opening; and  
  
a distance between said entrance opening in said expansion and one of said electric heaters that has a highest wind speed at said entrance opening in said expansion of distances between said entrance opening in said expansion and said respective electric heaters is set larger.
2. (Currently Amended) Said hot-air heater according to claim 1, wherein: a bent portion is formed on said air-blowing passage ~~by bending it somewhere along it~~ and mounted with a moving vane that constitutes said air-blowing fan; and said distances are set to become larger toward an outer side of said bent portion.